

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 6, please replace the paragraph at lines 12-20 with the following replacement paragraph:

SEQ ID NO:3 provides the nucleotide sequence of a cDNA encoding the human IL-13bc. SEQ ID NO:4 provides the predicted the amino acid sequence of the receptor chain, including a putative signal sequence from amino acids 1-25. The mature human IL-13bc is believed to have the sequence of amino acids 26-380 of SEQ ID NO:4. The mature human receptor chain has at least three distinct domains: an extracellular domain (comprising approximately amino acids 26-341 of SEQ ID NO:4), a transmembrane domain (comprising approximately amino acids 342-362 of SEQ ID NO:4) and an intracellular domain (comprising amino acids 363-380 of SEQ ID NO:4).

On page 7, please replace the paragraph at lines 12-21 with the following replacement paragraph:

For the purposes of the present invention, a protein has "a biological activity of the IL-13 receptor binding chain" if it possess possesses one or more of the following characteristics: (1) the ability to bind IL-13 or a fragment thereof (preferably a biologically active fragment thereof); and/or (2) the ability to interact with the second non-IL-13-binding chain of IL-13R to produce a signal characteristic of the binding of IL-13 to IL-13R. Preferably, the biological activity possessed by the protein is the ability to bind IL-13 or a fragment hereof thereof, more preferably with a K_D of about 0.1 to about 100nM. Methods for determining whether a particular protein or peptide has such activity include without limitation the methods described in the examples provided herein.